

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 543
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Galen Johnson, Jr. on the Porter Elementary School gymnasium being named in his honor.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly was pleased to learn that one of the greatest high school coaches of all time, Galen Johnson, who made Porter High School a state power for a quarter of a century, will be specially recognized by having the Porter Elementary School (which used to be Porter High School) gymnasium named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, his phenomenal record of consistent success as a high school basketball coach from 1955 to 1959 has rarely been equaled; and

WHEREAS, his teams compiled an exemplary overall record of 735 victories and 167 losses, an enviable winning percentage of .815; and

WHEREAS, his teams won an average of 28 games per season and won 20 or more games for 24 consecutive years, a national record; and

WHEREAS, his Porter High School teams won three state championships in 1959, 1963 and 1967, finished state runner-up twice in 1969 and 1978 and third in the state twice in 1964 and 1971; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnson guided teams to the state tournament an incredible 18 of 21 years; and

WHEREAS, he took teams to the regional tournament 23 of 24 years and placed either first or second in 20 of those 23 years; and

WHEREAS, his teams never finished lower than second place in the district; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnson was chosen District Coach of the Year seven times; and

WHEREAS, he coached 18 All-State players, including two who were later named AAU All-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Coach Johnson spent 45 years as an active coach, including his last four as an assistant coach at Maryville; and

WHEREAS, he has also spent 35 years conducting highly informative basketball camps throughout the South; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 Coach Johnson received the highest honor that a Tennessee coach can receive when he was named a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, team members, students, parents, fans, sports writers and even opponents have lauded his numerous significant contributions to the Porter High School athletic program and to high school basketball in general, using a long list of appropriate adjectives including “great”, “mentor”, “character builder”, “one of a kind”, “determined”, “expert”, “professional”, “outstanding”, “adept”, “hard worker”, “awesome”, “extraordinary”, “role model”, “winner”, “one of our best and brightest”, “tremendous poise under pressure”, “dedicated”, “diligent”, “rare” and “acclaimed”; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and congratulate Coach Galen Johnson and commend him for his service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Galen Johnson on the Porter Elementary School Gymnasium being named in his honor and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.